

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
**COUNCIL POLICY**

**CURRENT**

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOLS  
POLICY NO.: 600-22  
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 4, 1985

BACKGROUND:

The San Diego City Council has long been concerned with the impact of new housing on schools and their resultant ability to satisfactorily accommodate children generated by new residential developments. Whereas in the past the problem of inadequate school facilities has been primarily related to new growth areas, school overcrowding has recently been identified as a significant problem in Urbanized Area communities such as Mid-City and San Ysidro. In order to respond to this condition, the Council has added Sections 98.0401 et. seq. to the Municipal Code, which allows the establishment of land dedications and/or fees for interim school facilities where the districts provide adequate justification.

PURPOSE:

To establish a policy to govern the Council's actions in determining where proposed residential development may adversely impact existing or prospective school capacity, and in taking appropriate corrective measures.

POLICY:

Letters of School Availability

It is the policy of the City Council that the availability of schools shall be an important consideration in determining the effect on the public health, safety and general welfare when deciding zone changes or the approval of residential developments which will generate more school-age children in a given area. The Council recognizes that it is the responsibility of the various school districts within the City of San Diego to determine the availability of school capacity based on appropriate standards. The procedures to be followed in providing the necessary information regarding the availability of school capacity are as follows:

- I. The affected school districts will be asked to provide a statement of school availability for the development proposal in question. The school districts shall be encouraged to consider their future needs on a geographic area basis (such as district-wide, community planning area, or school attendance area). The City will accept annual, area-encompassing school availability statements as a basis for specific project reviews.

Within those portions of the San Diego Unified School District which are within the developed areas of San Diego as shown on Attachment 1, Letters of School Availability shall be required only if the District provides annually a statement and documentation of overcrowding for specific attendance areas. A larger-scaled, more detailed map showing the developed areas included in Attachment 1 is on file in the office of the City Clerk as Document No. 762647, and is available for public inspection.

- II. Should impasse situations arise between a school district and a developer on school issues affecting a development proposal, the Council will make a final determination. In making such determination, the Council may request information from the school district as set forth below:
- A. The name and location of existing schools which serve the area in question.
1. School capacities.
  2. Present enrollments.
  3. The number of portable, interim, and/or temporary classrooms, the number of permanent classrooms, and the proportion of portable, interim, and/or temporary classrooms to total classrooms.
  4. The existence of extended day, year round, or double sessions.
  5. The impact of the additional students on existing schools; i.e., will they require additional classrooms, extended day sessions, double sessions or busing.
  6. The distance of each designated school via streets from the geographic center of the new development.
- B. The location of any proposed schools which would serve the area.
1. Availability of funding for the proposed school(s) and the dates for their scheduled completion.
  2. The planned capacities of the proposed schools and their anticipated enrollments.
- C. Any agreements entered into by the developer(s) and the school district.
- D. The need for new school facilities (hitherto unanticipated and, therefore, unplanned for) attributable to the additional students.

#### Application of “Interim School Facilities Financing Ordinance”

The Council adopted Municipal Code Sections 98.0401 et. seq. to assist school districts in mitigating conditions of overcrowding in situations primarily within developed urban areas, where this Policy is inapplicable. Under these Code sections the District submits to the Council findings and evidence that conditions of overcrowding exist and no feasible methods are available to relieve the problem. If Council concurs, an impacted attendance area(s) can be designated within which no building permit for residential development shall be approved unless land is dedicated and/or fees paid to mitigate, on an interim basis, the overcrowded conditions. No additional dedications and/or fees are required where an agreement between the developer and the school district has been executed pursuant to this Council Policy.

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**HISTORY:**

Adopted by Resolution R-213657 06/26/1975  
Amended by Resolution R-217885 03/09/1977  
Amended by Resolution R-220219 02/01/1978  
Amended by Resolution R-251152 02/11/1980  
Amended by Resolution R-264398 11/04/1985

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